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LIBRARIES AND THEIR WORK.

III—THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Frederic J. Haskin.

Imagine a magnificent building, located in one of the most beautiful and desirable cities in New York city, built in the style of the French renaissance, yet showing a mingling of the classic Greek, its decoration the most beautiful that artist and sculptor could desire, and you have some faint conception of the appearance of the New York Public Library. The fittings and furnishings of this building are the best that money could buy. The arrangements for ventilation, heating and lighting are the best known to modern science. No detail has been overlooked which would detract from this great library the most perfect building of the kind in the world. The New York Public Library has been open to the public only a few months. It

department from the reading room and receives his book.

* *

This main reading room is one of the largest in the world and is magnificent in every way. It is 236 feet long by 75 feet wide, and the ceilings are 35 feet high. These are decorated with the same lustrous hand decoration of the marble corridors, but their design gives the effect of sun sky and clouds on a June day. The furnishings are oak and the floor is covered with compressed cork tiles. The entire Boston library could be placed inside of this one room. The high arched windows

Reading Room

295 Feet Long.

stands on the site of the old reservoir in Bryant Park, New York city. It fronts the 5th avenue and its western end, the 40th and 42d streets, and its rear view of the building, with its formal terraces, faces Bryant Park. On all sides the building is surrounded by a series of arched arcades, windows let in sunlight in an abundance seldom possible in a city building.

The front is most imposing. Six huge atlantes, in the style of Paul Bartlett, representing Philosophy, Religion, Three distinct sciences, and Art, suggest the purposes of the building. On either side of the main entrance stands a figure by the name of Wisdom and Knowledge. There is also a group of carvings by George Barnard.

And Park, and their height prevents the possibility of any obstruction of light. The screen behind the delivery desk is a hand-carved oak and is eighty-four feet long and twenty feet high. It has eight tables arranged to provide a square feet of space for each reader.

The library is the largest in the world. It is the greatest in the world. They will house within its walls 75,000 electric books. There are nineteen miles of shelves, and the windows will provide light and ventilation, for the old bad for books is just as erroneous as that they are bad for human beings.

The library is in the basement, it is the

sidements north and south of the main entrance are decorated by E. C. Potter. The main entrance is decorated by the same artist. The main entrance gives admission to the large hall, which is the most perfect large hall in the world. The main entrance gives admission to the large hall, which is the most perfect large hall in the world. The main entrance gives admission to the large hall, which is the most perfect large hall in the world.

To the right and the left of the roundabout are grand stairways of white marble, upheld by great building Arches of marble arches with a Great Problem. seventeen feet between their buttresses. These arches are a problem to the architect and several

On the second floor is a wonderful electric book lift which is the admiration of

Electric Book Lift

This is the center of the building's unique feature.

There are several studios on different surrounding buildings where students can study or work. The students in specific fields of learning. There is an oriental department containing rooms devoted to Egyptian, Asiatic and Hebrew lore. This library includes one of the best collections of books in the world.

them, for the marble stairs have an easy incline. Each flight gives access to long lines of marble corridors. The walls are covered with a decorative tiled design. The ceilings give the only touch of color. These are hand-painted plaster designs in blue, green and red on a tan base. Standing in the marble corridor of the loggia, one looks through the glass doors into the courtyard across the rotunda into 5th avenue, and on to the city beyond.

The New York Library is in the shape of the letter E. The back of the E gives the long corridors on all floors; the arms of the E are the marble hallways of Letter E.

The E is the exhibition room on the first floor; the oriental department and the Chinese and Japanese collections are located on the second floor, and on the third floor the public catalogue room. This floor leads into the main reading room, which contains the largest of the gigantic bookshelves, which occupy three floors of the basement, the first and second floors.

public catalog room, contains a large number of book drawers on three sides of the room, with a provision for future additions there a gallery above protected by an ornate cast-iron railing. The building is a great library should handle the crowds of readers for years the substantial building is one of the most skillful librarians in the country. It is believed that the plan adopted for the new building will approach the most successful.

Reader enters the catalogue room because of its simplicity of arrangement has little difficulty in finding the book he desires. A library built on such a plan is a valuable one for the lovers of books.

Philippines Club to Meet.

Dr. Joseph M. Heller to announce to deliver an address at the opening tonight of the new quarters of the Philippines Club, at 915 14th street northwest. E.